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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

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ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[26 November 1991]

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations, further to its reply of 2 May 1989, 1/ wishes to add that Argentina continues to support the decolonization process which is being successfully carried out by the United Nations through its relevant organs, guided by the inalienable principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In this connection, it wishes to recall that, while the principle of self-determination has been the one most widely applied in the decolonization process, there are certain colonial cases, clearly identified by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, to which this principle does not apply. These are special colonial situations which involve the territorial integrity of certain countries, as is the case of the Argentine Republic, and which are covered by paragraph 6 of resolution 1514 (XV).

SPAIN

[Original: Spanish]

[26 November 1991]

1. Efforts to eradicate the phenomenon of colonialism and specific colonial situations have been one of the spheres in which the United Nations has been most active and most successful.

2. It is now unanimously recognized that the Organization was the prime mover and later the driving force of the decolonization process, reaping outstanding, fruitful results which in the short space of a few decades radically transformed the structure and very composition of the international community, enriching it through the accession of many former colonial peoples and countries that are today Members of the United Nations as sovereign, independent States.

3. Spain supported and continues to support these efforts and therefore welcomes the proclamation by the General Assembly of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. 2/ The fact that the Decade coincides with the end of the twentieth century should send a message of hope that will allow the next century to begin with the eradication of colonialism. Every trace of anachronistic situations incompatible with the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations would thus be eradicated once and for all.

4. Spain therefore fully supports the fundamental goal of the Decade, which is to eradicate the colonial situations in each and every Non-Self-Governing Territory still existing, and, in that connection, recognizes the vital importance of the right to self-determination of peoples subjected to colonial situations.

5. It is important to point out, nevertheless, in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV) and various other resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, that while the exercise of the right of all peoples to self-determination is the most common way of putting an end to colonial situations, there are certain Non-Self-Governing Territories clearly identified by the General Assembly in which that principle should not be applied.

6. Indeed, resolution 1514 (XV) itself, which has been described as the Organization's Magna Carta in this field, states in paragraph 6 that "any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

7. By virtue of that provision and in certain specific cases, the General Assembly has recommended and supported the holding of consultations and negotiations between certain sovereign States concerned, with a view to settling colonial situations. What is more, the Assembly has gone so far as to state that the holding of so-called acts of self-determination in certain Territories constitutes a violation of its resolutions and, especially, of the principles established in resolution 1514 (XV).

8. The fact that most of the Territories remaining to be decolonized are small island Territories should not make us forget the situations to which reference has just been made.

9. Spain therefore considers it to be of the utmost importance that the action plan of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should take those cases into account and should make a special appeal to the States involved to continue their negotiations and to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving the fundamental goal of the Decade: the eradication of all colonial situations.

10. Spain earnestly hopes that United Nations efforts to ensure that the world in the twenty-first century is free of the colonial situations that still exist will end in success. The sole purpose of the observations made in this letter is to contribute to those efforts and to emphasize Spain's firm commitment to this goal.

Notes

1/ See A/44/800, sect. II.

2/ Resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988.